



Arlington Homelessness Task Force Minutes

Date: *July 11, 2019*

Time: *7:00 pm*

Location: Arlington Police Station, Community Room, 112 Mystic St.

Attendance: Stacey Mulroy, Arlington Recreation Director; Chief Julie Flaherty, Arlington Police Department; Christine Bongiorno, Arlington Health & Human Services Director; Erin Zwirko, Arlington Planning and Community Development Assistant Director; Natasha Waden, Arlington Public Health Director; Kylee Sullivan, Health Compliance Officer; Michael Libby; Christine Carney; Mel Goldsipe; Steve Revilak; Therese Henderson; Mary Kowal; Jane Biondi; **Dori**; Sarah Morrison; Marci Shapiro-Ide

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

Health and Human Services Director, Christine Bongiorno, led introductions and thanked all Task Force members for their interest in participating in this important issue affecting the community. Bongiorno explained that the Task Force is composed of representatives from specific precincts (precincts 2, 4, and 7) as well as certain town departments (Health and Human Services, Recreation, Police, and Planning).

2. Overview of Homelessness in Arlington

Director Bongiorno and Council on Aging Social Worker, Marci Shapiro Ide, described the three types of homelessness observed in Arlington. Those experiencing homeless in town fall into the following categories:

- I. Residents living in homes but on the brink of homelessness (eviction notice, late with rent, lost job, etc.)
- II. Residents living on friend's couch, sleeping in hotels, house sitting, sleeping in cars
- III. Residents sleeping in woods

3. Outreach Team Introduction and Presentation

Arlington Homeless Outreach Team members, Rebecca Wolfe (Arlington Police Mental Health Clinician) and Kylee Sullivan (Health Compliance Officer), presented about homelessness in town. Wolfe and Sullivan explained their roles as weekly homeless outreach members and described their experiences working with service providers from Cambridge and Somerville. Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC) Executive Director, Michael Libby, described what the SHC is and how they assist people experiencing homelessness in Somerville and Arlington.

4. Review of Plans and Discussion

Director Bongiorno presented potential Task Force programs such as a providers fair to connect people sleeping in the woods to services. Other initiatives discussed included a homelessness forum for the community and a cleanup of the area around Alewife Station and Thorndike Field. Task Force Member Mel Goldsipe asked the group if anyone was opposed to the name "Task Force" to which no one had opposition. Director Bongiorno stated there will not be a Homelessness Task Force Meeting in August and the group's next meeting will be in September.

5. Public Comment

Health Compliance Officer Sullivan distributed a handout from a resident containing suggestions on how Arlington can help homeless in the area.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.